

IN THE CLAIMS:

These claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the present application.

Claims 1 to 15 are cancelled.

16. (NEW) A crown protection device for a wristwatch including a movement including at least, at the end of a winding stem, a crown able to be concealed by a cover provided in an external casing, formed in particular by a middle part, closed on the dial side by a crystal surrounded by a bezel, by a back cover and by horns for attaching wristband strands, wherein the cover is independent of the bezel and wherein the movement and the external casing, or an element integrated in the latter, can be manipulated in relative rotation in the plane of the watch between a position in which the crown is concealed by the cover and a position in which it is revealed.

17. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 16, wherein the cover is secured to a manoeuvring ring slide friction mounted in an annular groove provided in the middle part on the back cover side, wherein the horns are integral with the middle part and wherein said manoeuvring ring is held in place by a base provided with lugs screwed into the horns.

18. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the base is formed by a washer abutting on the edges of the annular groove.

19. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the base is formed by an extension of the back cover underneath the annular groove.

20. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the ring carrying the cover is provided with notches extending beyond the middle part to facilitate manipulation of said ring.

21. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the ring includes a thinned part opposite the winding stem.

22. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the cover is formed by a contour forming a lateral protection.

23. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 22, wherein the cover also includes a top part for totally concealing the crown in the closed position.

24. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein it further includes at least one click inserted between the top part of the middle part and the ring for holding the cover in a determined position.

25. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 17, wherein the crown is positioned at 4 o'clock and wherein the cover is stopped or abuts against a horn.

26. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 16, wherein the wristwatch is formed of two parts, a first part including a case closed by a crystal and housing the movement, the winding stem passing through the flank of said case with a crown at the end of said stem, and a second part formed by a support in a single piece formed by a back

cover and horns, one of which is shaped to form a cover for the crown when the case is pivoted in the support.

27. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 26, wherein the cover is formed by an extension of a horn leaving one part of the crown visible in the closed position.

28. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 26, wherein the cover is formed by a recess in one horn for completely concealing the crown in the closed position.

29. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 26, wherein the flank of the case is provided with notches facilitating manipulation of said case.

30. (NEW) The crown protection device according to claim 26, wherein the bezel of the case is provided with notches facilitating manipulation of said case.